

A  
 REVIEW  
 OF THE  
 STATE  
 OF THE  
 ENGLISH NATION.

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*Thursday Evening, June 4. 1706.*

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**I**N my last I confess, I seem'd to bring the French to a very low Ebb, viz. To solicit a Peace at the Court of England, giving the QUEEN the Honour of making her own Terms for her own Kingdoms, and for those of the Confederates; which is, what is mean't by sending the *Carte Blanche*, as we are told, the Emperor of Morocco has done by his late Ambassador.

Well, Gentlemen, you will abate your Censures of my Arrogance, when I shall tell you; if it were not so, I wish it were; and yet I shall tell you, that I am so Frenchified, as they call it, that if the King of France had neither a Ship for his Navy, nor a Troop of Horse left for his Guard; if his Armies were reduc'd to the Poltrons of Portugal, and his Fleet to the Armadilla of new Spain,

*which I think is about two Men of War and a half, the Admiral of which carries about 24 Guns, were these his Forces, and were his Person in the Room of Monsieur, the Mareschal de Tallard a Prisoner at Nottingham; I should yet, were it in my Power, upon the Terms of Peace, at the General Heads whereof I shall here make an Essay, restore him to his Crown and Dignity, and place him with due Respect to his Character among the greatest Princes of Europe; and before you censure me for this, pray examine the Conditions well.*

1. The first General is a great and most capacious Article, viz. To restore to the Spaniard the full and entire Possession, in the Condition as now they stand, all the Kingdoms, Countries, Dominions, &c. that he has taken from

from them, invaded or encroach'd upon from the Peace at *Vervins*, made between *Henry* the Great his Grandfather, and *Philip II.* King of *Spain*, the Fortifications entire and unhurt.

He that considers, how much *France* has to lose, before he thus parts with all he has got above his own, will not think this a small Article; how by this he must not only quit all the *Spanish* Dominions seiz'd upon under the late Pretence of the Gift from the King of *Spain*, but must also restore all the Province of *Artois*, Archbishoprick of *Cambray*, and what they now call *Les pais Conquis* in the *Netherlands*; in which are the strong and almost invincible Towns of *Dunkirk*, *St. Omer*, *Donay*, *Courtray*, *Ypres*, *Lisle*, *Valenciennes*, *Conde*, *Cambray*, and a Multitude of smaller Strengths, which would cost vast Treasures, and a Sea of Blood to recover.

Nor is this all; The Province of *Burgundy* and *Franche Comte* by this Article must be given up, by which including *Lorraine* already restor'd in part, the *Moselle* and the *Deux* will be the Frontier of *France*, instead of the *Rhine*, and so terrible a Neighbour plac'd at a due distance from the Empire, to which it has been so troublesome, and so great an Invader.

2. The second General is to the Empire, to whom should be restor'd all that has been taken from the Empire, since the Treaty of *Munster*, in which would be included all the *Upper* and *Lower Alsace*, with all the Country between the *Saar* and the *Rhine*, with the Cities of *Treves*, and all the Country taken from that Elector, with the Bishopricks of *Metz*, *Toul* and *Verdan*, to the House of *Lorraine* and the like.

In this grand Article would be included the Fort of *Hunningben*, which has so long bridled the *Swiss*, and which lies within Cannon Shot of the City of *Basle*, the Town of *Brisac*, the City of *Strasbourg*, Fort of *Kiel*, Fort *Louis* on the *Rhine*, the Fortress of *Hambergb*, the Town of *Hague-nau*, and innumerable small Defences, which the *French* always crowd their Frontiers with.

What should we say of *France*, to see her

thus strip'd of her borrowed Plumes, and the Fortresses built at her Cost, to curb and bridle the Power of those Princes, which she design'd to oppress, serving as Bulwarks of those Nations Liberties against the Invasions of that very Prince that built them.

This would be turning the Tables upon *France* with a Vengeance; if he would fortify any Frontiers, they must then be his own; if he will have Barriers, they must not be the Provinces of his Neighbours, which he shall take Possession of, as often as he thinks fit to make a Pretence for *Mal Satisfaction*, as of the *Dutch*; or as often as he has occasion for Communication with his Conquests, as of *Lorraine*; or as often as he wants a safe Retreat from the invading his Neighbours, as in the Case of *Pignorol*; or as often as any Disrespect is shown his Grandeur, as in bombarding *Genoa*, and the like.

Very well, says a captious Reader of this, and this is the largest Demand, you would make upon the *French* King is it, God Almighty is very much beholden to you, is he not? Pray, what Care have you taken of the Protestant Religion, and the poor suffering *Calvinists* and *Cevennois*, these are to be sacrific'd as the Protestants of the Palatinate, were at the Treaty of *Ryswick*, or as the Protestants in *Poland* are by the King of *Sweden*; who after all the fine things pretended here of his restoring their Churches and Priviledges, and I know not what in his first Treaty, concluded with his new sham King there, forgot or wholly neglected their Interest, and left them as bad, if not worse, than he found them?

Why truly, Gentlemen, as to Religion, I have a great Deal to say for the poor Protestants of *France*, but as I have been treating of the War hitherto, as a War for civil Property, and for preserving the Balance of Power and Safety in *Europe*, I could not speak to this Head.

But since it now comes in my way, give me leave to speak to the Case of the *French* Refugees, by way of Reproof or Direction, take it which way they please.

While



While they acted bravely in their own Defence, during the Civil Wars, raised for Account of Religion in *France*, they acted AS A BODY under their proper Heads, and had Meetings to concert Measures for that End.

Now they are dispers'd and persecuted, as they are scatter'd in the World, they receive Protection and Assistance from the protestant Powers as a People, but are under no Form or Character as a Body; and this I think, they are short in, tho' it is not too late to retrieve it. I think they ought to apply themselves to the several Governments, under whose Protection they live, and treating as a Body, desire to be admitted as such into the present Confederacy.

When this is done, they may be treated for in a Congress of Peace, and the King of *France* may be oblig'd (if reduc'd low enough) to restore them to their Liberty and Privileges, which they enjoy'd and ought to enjoy by the *Edict of Nantes*.

I confess, the *English* and *Dutch* seem to me to OWE the Protestants such a Case of Kindness as this, in Satisfaction for what our Fore-fathers did against them, when they sent their Men of War to *Louis XIII.* of *France*, to destroy the Protestant Fleet of the *Rocbellers*, without which *Montieur Soubise*, that is the Protestants, had rid Admiral of the Sea, for ought I know to this day, and all the Powers of *France* had never been able to have reduc'd the Protestant Religion.

But divided Protestants have done more to build up formidable Popery, than all the Powers of united Protestant Nations can in many Ages pull down; a Thought I humbly recommend to those that are so forward now to divide them yet farther.

But to come nearer to this Case, entering *France*, is on this very Account much more to be press'd by all those that are truly zealous for the Protestant Religion, as the only way to put Arms in the Hands of those Protestants; who 'tis plain, want no Zeal, nor Courage, nor Constancy, or Fidelity, to cast off the Bands of Tyranny, and the hateful Fetters of Idolatry, that Bondage

on the Consciences; which have so long been intollerable to them, and which they nobly strove with to the last, when no Relief nor Assistance could be procur'd them.

Have you cast out the *French* Encroachments upon *Spain*, and drove their new usurping Monarch out of that Kingdom? what remains, but that you open the Passages of the Mountains, push into *Langue-dock*, and put Arms and Opportunity into the Hands of the *Camisars* to revenge their own Quarrel; then you will soon find them considerable enough to be accepted as a Member of the Confederacy, and to be considered in your Articles of Peace.

There can never be a surer Sign of your having broken the haughty Spirit of the *French* Tyranny, than to bring him to revoke his bloody Edicts against his own Subjects, to force him to acknowledge and admit their Right to their Possessions, and recognize that Sovereignty of Conscience over his and over all human Authority.

I must own, I cannot think the Confederates have any Pretence to impose Terms on the King of *France*, as to the Liberty of his own People, the Protestants, till they having put Arms into their Hands, and Opportunity to serve themselves, shall receive them into the Union as a Body, acknowledge them as a Member of the Confederacy, and then they cannot treat without them.

Then the Protestant Religion might rise again, and show its Head in *France* a second time, and be planted so under the Protection and Guarantee of all the united Powers of *Europe*, in Confederacy, as it might for ever after be free from the Fear of another Persecution.

Could I see this Work once begun, I should have other Kind of Thoughts, of the Sincerity of some of the Branches of this present Confederacy, than I have now; and of their Zeal for, as well as Profession of the Protestant Religion; and might once hope, that the Protestant Powers of *Europe* should no more have any Occasion to fear the Threats of a religious War in *Europe*. I know, we have been long threatned with a *Cruisado* in *Europe*, a meer War of the Cross,